

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-12, and 14-18 are all the claims pending in the application. The Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 6-12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sakasegawa et al. (US 6,023,130). Claims 15-18 are allowed.

Applicants cancel claims 1-4, 6-12, and 14, and add new claims 19-27.

§ 102(b) Rejections

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). *See*, MPEP 2131.

The present invention is related to a plasma lighting device (bulb) having an embedded metallic screen to shield electromagnetic radiation from escaping the bulb. The screen is formed of metal wire imbedded in grooves formed on one surface of the bulb, and the grooves form a pattern on the surface of the bulb. The formed patterns may be circular or polygonal. The grooves are formed having a cross-section that reflects light away from the metallic screen so that the effective luminance is maintained.

The Examiner cites Sakasegawa as anticipating at least one aspect of the invention. Sakasegawa is directed to a plasma display substrate comprising a rear plate and a plurality of partitions forming display cells, wherein each cell has electrodes, phosphor films, and a dischargable gas. Sakasegawa specifically concerns forming the cells by having a plurality of partitions joined to the rear plate. *See*, Sakasegawa, col. 3, lines 64 et seq. In response to the Examiner's reliance upon Sakasegawa, applicants cancel claims 1-4, 6-12, and 14, and add new claims 19-27 to broadly claim the invention. No new material has been added with these new claims.

New claim 19 recites the limitation of “a bulb having grooves of a predetermined depth on at least an inner or an outer surface of the bulb, wherein the grooves form a plurality of patterns comprising at least one of circular shapes and polygons.” This limitation is not anticipated by Sakagesawa for at least three reasons.

First, while Sakagesawa teaches a display panel substrate having cells, Sakagesawa does not teach that these cells have any particular shape such as circular shapes or polygons. In rejecting claim 1 (now cancelled), the Examiner referred to Sakagesawa Fig. 2a (shown below) and directed applicants’ attention to element 13 as teaching semicircular patterns. Applicants believe the view of element 13 cited by the Examiner is analogous to the cross-section of the application’s grooves, not to the patterns formed on the surface of the plasma bulb. The cross-section of the grooves is recited in allowed claim 17. If anything, element 13 relates to a shape of a display cell shown in Fig. 2(b). Applicants note that display cell 13 is bounded on only two sides, and does not teach “a plurality of patterns comprising at least one of circular shapes and polygons.”

FIG. 2(a)

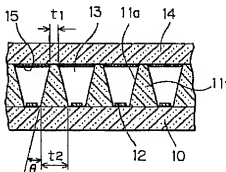
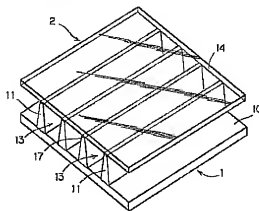


FIG. 2(b)



Second, applicants contend that Sakagesawa does not teach “grooves on at least an inner or an outer surface of the bulb” as recited by new claim 19. Sakagesawa’s display plate is formed from a rear plate 10, a number of partitions 11, and a front plate 14. *See*, Sakagesawa, col. 7, lines 1-6. The application’s bulb surface is analogous to Sakagesawa’s front plate 14, and

Sakagesawa does not teach grooves on a surface of the front plate. If anything, Sakagesawa teaches that grooves are formed by sandwiching partitions between a front and a rear plate, not formed on the front plate.

Third, in describing a display cell, Sakagesawa states that the discharge gas is in the cell, and the discharge gas is excited by the electrodes that are also in the cell (elements 12 and 15, Fig. 2(a)). Sakagesawa teaches that the electrodes are in contact with the discharge gas. Claim 19 recites that the metal in the grooves may be either on the inside surface or the outside surface of the bulb. Sakagesawa teaches away from placing an electrode on the outside surface of the front plate because the electrode would no longer be in contact with the discharge gas.

Also, claims 20-27 which depend from claim 19 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim.

Applicants respectfully request that this amendment be entered and considered because it is directly responsive to the Examiner's rejection, and because it contains no matter necessitating a new search. Each of the limitations of claim 19 have previously been considered and are found in allowed claims 15-18.

CONCLUSION

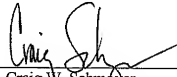
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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